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RE: Public Employee Health Benefits Act Reform

Chairman Kelly and Members of the Education Reform Committee

Aetna is one of the nation's leading diversified health benefit companies, providing members with resources to enable better informed decisions about their health. We currently serve Michiganders enrolled in Medicaid and commercial health plans throughout the state. Aetna is proud to provide health benefit coverage to public employees at Michigan State University, City of Bay City, City of Detroit Police & Fire Retiree Healthcare Trust, as well as others.

Aetna supports House Bill 6537 as it seeks to establish transparency of health care data for those in public employee benefit systems. Providing this exchange of data is a catalyst to increasing competition to ensure public employees obtain high value benefits at the most affordable price. In recent year's employers, insurers, and states have taken steps to enhance the sharing of health care data in effort to better inform consumers of health care costs and drive health care solutions for employers and states attempting to address their health care cost liability. In all instances this has been done maintaining federal and state privacy requirements. For example the State of New Jersey enacted such a measure in 2014, making claims experience data available for public employers participating in the State Health Benefits Program as well as joint insurance funds.¹

In order to foster an environment of innovation for insurers to assemble the best health care options with the use public dollars, making claims data transparent is critically important. It is with this in mind, Aetna offers its support of this legislation.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support and for your consideration of Aetna's position.

P.L2013, c.189